

# **The Parishioner**

Spring Issue 2020



**St Ninians Old Parish Church**

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## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As part of a Presbytery initiative called Local Church Review, the Kirk Session has been doing some self-reflection. This has involved us thinking about our work in St Ninians Old under the following headings;

Worship;            Evangelism;  
Service;            Discipleship;  
Fellowship.



We have also reflected on our relationship with the wider Church, the resources we have (people, buildings and money), the way we communicate our vision and mission and leadership within the congregation.

In addition, we have been asked by the Presbytery to set goals for the future. These goals are, at the time of writing, being formulated and, once finalised, will be shared with you.

As we set our goals we have been asked to imagine how we would like our Church to look in five years time and then work out how we might get there!

The process is certainly challenging and has involved a lot of thought, prayer and discussion. We have recognised areas in our life as a congregation where we need to 'up our game' as it were while also acknowledging those areas where we are doing well.

In a recent sermon, I spoke of the privilege that is ours in sharing in the work and ministry of Jesus Christ. Our worship and participation in the groups and organisations of the congregation is vitally important but equally so is our work and witness in the parish and beyond.

Being with people and offering them our time and a listening ear can lift a burden and make people feel valued.

Seeing others as Jesus sees them will impact on our outlook and affirm people, especially those who have a lack of self-worth and who feel they do not count.

Sharing a 'word' about Jesus in our place of work, leisure centre, the hospital, school or in our neighbourhood can make all the difference, a difference we ourselves may not fully appreciate.

In reflecting on where we are and where we might like to go in the coming years, I believe that it is our individual response as well as our response as a congregation that will benefit the Church and the wider community, and ensure that the work and ministry of Jesus Christ continues in St Ninians Old and far beyond!

I finish by quoting from a Prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582);

*'Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people'.*

Every good wish,

Your Friend and Minister,

*Gary J McIntyre*



## Services in March, April and May

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
8<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
Ordination and Admission of Elders.  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
6:30pm Thanksgiving Service  
15<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
Fellowship Tea  
12:30pm Lunch for the less able in the Parish Halls  
1pm Holy Communion in the Parish Halls  
22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
1pm Service in Eccles Court  
1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home  
29<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

### April

- 5<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship for Palm Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Day  
7:30am Sunrise Service on Stirling Castle Esplanade  
10:30am Easter Day Family Service and Sacrament of Baptism  
19<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship  
Fellowship Tea  
26<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism, Creche and Sunday Club  
1pm Service in Eccles Court  
1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
10<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
6:30pm Evening Communion Service  
17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
Fellowship Tea  
24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club  
1pm Service in Eccles Court  
1:30pm. Service in Westerlands care Home

## **Holy Week 2020**

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April

There will be services each evening in Holy Week at 7pm. The venue for each service will be intimated in the Church and the Stirling Observer.

### **Ordination and Admission of Elders**

The Kirk Session has decided to add to its number and is delighted that the following people have agreed to serve as elders;

Sally Andrews, Thelma Jamieson, Elaine Mackay, Janette Peterson and Lorraine Reid.

The Ordination and Admission will take place during the morning service on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. We assure the new elders of our prayers and good wishes as they embark on this sphere of service.

### **The Kirk Session**

The Business Committee will meet on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

The Kirk Session will meet on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the service on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### **Bible Study Group**

The group will meet at the Church at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of March (11<sup>th</sup>), the first Wednesday of April (1<sup>st</sup>) and the second Wednesday of May (13<sup>th</sup>). This session we are studying 'Will You Follow Me?' by Leith Fisher. You are warmly invited to join us.

### **Pastoral Care Group**

The group will meet at the Church on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

### **Lunch and Communion for the less able**

A light lunch will be served in the Parish Halls on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm and will be followed by a short celebration of Holy Communion. This is primarily for those who are no longer able to attend Church but all will be very welcome. If you would like to come

please let your elder or the minister know. Transport can be provided for those who require it.

## **The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**

The General Assembly will meet in Edinburgh from 16<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> May. The Moderator Designate is The Rev Dr Martin Fair. Dr Fair has been Minister of St Andrew's Parish Church in Arbroath since 1992. He has said he hopes to highlight addiction and mental health issues during his year in office. Dr Fair will be the first Moderator from Arbroath to serve as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad during what will be the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Declaration of Arbroath.

Born in Glasgow, Dr Fair has said 'There is a wonderful opportunity for the Church right now to rediscover its meaning and purpose for the people of Scotland and beyond in the here and now. I am totally fired up as a Minister, and as Moderator, I want to communicate that excitement and positivity'.

Prince William has been appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of 2020.

The Lord High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

During General Assembly week Prince William will attend on behalf of the Sovereign. He will make the opening and closing addresses to the Assembly, as well as carrying out official visits across Scotland.

Last year His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch attended the General Assembly as the Lord High Commissioner, serving in the role for the second time.

Her Majesty The Queen came in person to the General Assembly in 1969 and 2002. Previous members of the Royal Family to be appointed to the role include HRH Prince Charles, HRH The Earl of Wessex and most recently HRH The Princess Royal in 2017. Rev Dr George Whyte, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland said: "We are honoured that her Majesty has appointed Prince William as Lord High Commissioner.

"We look forward to welcoming His Royal Highness to the General Assembly."

'Heart and Soul', an event that celebrates the life and work of the Church will be held from 1-6pm in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on General Assembly Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May.

## **St Columba's Church and Allan Park South Church**

The congregations of St Columba's and Allan Park South in Stirling will unite on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. The present St Columba's building will be retained as the place of worship and will be known as Park Church. Mr McIntyre will complete his time as Interim Moderator of St Columba's when the union takes place. A new Interim Moderator will be appointed to the united congregation. We wish the congregation of Park Church all that is good and look forward to working together in the future.

## **A Milestone Birthday**

Our warmest congratulations go to Mr William Patrick who celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. Mr Patrick, who was born in Darvel in Ayrshire, recently became a resident in Annfield House. He and his late wife, Marion, were married in 1939 and they enjoyed almost 78 years together before she passed away in 2017.

## **Holiday Club**

This Easter will be the 9th year that there has been a Holiday Club, jointly run by St Ninians Old and St Columba's.

We are desperately in need of volunteers to help the club to be a success. Over the years we have been fortunate to have had enthusiastic helpers but this year many are not available for various reasons.

The club is running from Tuesday 14th - Thursday 16th April, 10.00-12.30 at St Ninians Old Parish Halls and we need volunteers who can give of their time for one, two or all three mornings. Nothing is too difficult, planning is done for you and usually a fun time is had by all, both children and adults. You do not need to be disclosed as many of our regulars have this and you would never be left on your own with any child.

There is a preliminary meeting to be held on Monday 2nd March at 2pm in St Columba's Library to outline the theme of the club and the various roles that need to be covered. If you would like any further information please contact Moira Parry on 07817 225970.

## Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you again for this new day,  
For the fellowship we share in this congregation,  
For all it offers, all it means,  
And for all the way it enriches our lives.

We thank you for the unity we have discovered in your name,  
For the love that binds us together.

We thank you for the experiences we have shared over the years,  
For the bond that you have created between us.

We thank you for the care we have been able to show  
And the care we have in turn received.

We thank you for the opportunities we have to discuss our faith,  
And the way our understanding of you has grown as a result.

We thank you for the way we can talk together openly and honestly  
And know that our friendship within this congregation will continue to flourish.



Lorna Waddell

## St Ninians Church Hall Library

### Opening Times

- During fellowship teas
- During soup and sandwich lunches
- Tuesday Group
- After church service with prior request

The library has been opened for nearly 2 years. We hold a large selection of books including;

Children's

Religious

Hobbies and Crafts

Educational

Autobiographies

Crime and Romance

Travel

Gardening

If you are looking for a particular book, author or subject we do not stock . Please let us

know and we will try to source it for you.

When borrowing a book leave the title and your name in the book provided and sign it when you return it.

For more information contact

Freda Smart 01786 447352 fredasmart@hotmail.com

Bill Anderson 01786 472756 bill.anderson1011@gmail.com

## **Social and Fundraising Committee**

### **Craft Group**

A big thank you to all who have knitted baby hats and cot blankets for Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert. We have given the hospital 130 baby hats and 6 cot blankets that have *been* knitted by the group and some of the congregation since the beginning of *this* year. The hospital are very grateful for these donations and always send a letter of thanks.

We also have received some donations for the Blythwood Boxes. Although these are not collected until November we also knit hats, scarfs and mitts/gloves for all ages throughout the year. We have three large bags of wool in the Parish halls that may be used. If anyone would like to help just ask one of the group for wool or patterns.

The Craft Classes are continuing throughout the winter months in the middle room of the Parish Halls at 7.00pm. Dates will be provided in the weekly intimations.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who wishes to do sewing, crafts or other knitting. It is very informal and we usually have tea, coffee and biscuits.

### **Barbecue**

The annual barbecue will be held in the Church Manse as usual in July. Date to be confirmed. Tickets will be on sale during the month of June.

### **Soup and Sandwich Lunches**

We would like to thank all people who have attended the lunches over the last six months. We are delighted that so many people enjoy our monthly lunches and the friendship that we receive from them. There will be the usual lunches held in the autumn and winter months in the Parish Halls from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

## The Tuesday Group

Many thanks to all those who recently attended our annual Burns Supper. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Unfortunately, some amendments have had to be made to the forthcoming events.

Neil Oliver, archaeologist, historian, author and broadcaster, will now address the group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March instead of the 18<sup>th</sup> February. This will be an open evening and tickets will be on sale at £5, and a light supper will be provided.

Tricia Chillas will once again put us through our paces on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. The ladies will participate in chair aerobics to Rock and Reel music. There will be much singing, clapping and stamping to Scottish music and hits of the 60's.

Our AGM will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March- again please note the change of date. This will take place in the King Robert Hotel at 7pm. There will be a two-course meal plus tea/coffee at a cost of £10 per head. A small amount of business must be attended to but most of the evening is for socialising and enjoying our time together.

For further details please contact:

Miranda Telephone 01786 465836, email [mirandamiller@live.co.uk](mailto:mirandamiller@live.co.uk)

Thelma Telephone 01786 442046

Dorothy Telephone 01786 814813, email [walkerdisr@icloud.com](mailto:walkerdisr@icloud.com)

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of  
world that it leaves to its children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Lent Challenge

Foodbanks' stocks are particularly low around the period of Easter.

The "Lent Challenge" runs along the lines of the "Reverse Advent Calendar", the idea being that for each day of Lent, which began on 26th February, you are asked to put in one item for a local foodbank, in a box or a bag. 40 items are a lot, so it is suggested that you could work as family groups or groups of friends if this seems more feasible.



When you have completed the challenge, please take your goods to your chosen foodbank, or to Church who will pass them on. St Ninians Old Parish Church supports the foodbanks all year round but this could give an added boost.

## StartUp Stirling Update

For the past year, 2019, our congregation donated one quarter of a tonne of goods and £1200 in cash donations. Apart from the supermarkets, which are by far the largest contributors of goods, our congregation were the third highest in the Stirling presbytery behind Bridge of Allan Church and the Allan Church at Bannockburn. Tricia Cumming, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, ask me to pass on her thanks for our congregation's generosity. StartUp are most grateful.

StartUp's day to day financial position remains stable and they continue to see good progress on general donations and community fundraising. At the end of November (eight months through the financial year) there was a modest deficit of £14500. Festive donations and fund raising resulted in more or less an overall break-even position by the end of January.

November also saw the arrival of positive news from the Scottish Government about funding this financial year (£18,000) and next year (£45,000) that will help StartUp's continued delivery and development of crisis food banks and related support service activity. The monies in 2020/2021 have been awarded jointly to StartUp and Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), with the latter also to be receiving a £45,000 sum. This funding is part of a new "Tackling Rural Isolation Project." StartUp will be sharing more information on this project later on in the year.

StartUp are delighted to welcome Glenda McWatt to the new position of General Manager. Glenda comes from Bridge of Allan and joins StartUp after having worked with other organisations such as the RVS and the Cyrenians. Her philosophy in life is "No

regrets. Don't look back. Look forward. Our experiences are all part of our rich tapestry. Learn to accept them all, good and bad. There is no such thing as perfection". We all must admit that's a pretty good philosophy.

The above information was provided by Tricia Cumming, Volunteer Co-ordinator. She is always very appreciative the effort put in by the Congregation of St.Ninians Old Parish Church.

As regards food requirements they are much the same as always but worth a reminder of what they are:- Sauces, instant foods, UHT milk (these are always a priority), tins of fruit, tins of meat, tinned or packaged vegetables, tinned tomatoes, tinned soup, desert tins, tinned fish, biscuits, cereals etc

For StartUp packs there is still a requirement for the following household items:- irons, small frying pans, dusters, washing up liquid, kitchen and toilet rolls, mugs , cooking pots, toasters, kitchen utensils, crockery , cutlery etc. (new or nearly new in the case of hardware items.)

StartUp are most grateful for the continuing contribution from the congregation of St Ninians Old Parish Church.

If anyone requires further information about StartUp , don't hesitate to call me.

Arthur Walls

Contact telephone numbers:-

01786 446 899

07979438345

### **Watch Night Retiral Collection**

An e-mail of thanks has been received from Jackie Paterson of Neuro Central thanking the Church for the donation of £321.06, half of the Christmas Eve retiral collection.

Jackie says this will provide 8 hours of therapies to their members which will be greatly appreciated.



St Ninians Old Parish  
Kirk Wynd  
St Ninians  
Stirling  
FK7 9AY

31/01/2020

Dear St Ninians Old Parish,

Thank you so much for supporting us throughout 2019. All of the donations from St Ninians Old Parish totalled an amazing 727 kg of goods.

Your support helped us deliver:

- 102276 meals at our Foodbanks, supporting 2607 people over a third of them children.
- 174 Starter Packs given to help people get settled in new tenancies.
- 241 Welcome Packs to help those in temporary housing.
- 296 Emergency Food Packs for people with no housing.
- 715 Toiletry Packs distributed to help the temporary homeless.

Thank you for helping us make this possible and for showing those who are most in need in our community that someone cares - it makes a very real difference.

Yours sincerely

Glenda McWatt  
General Manager

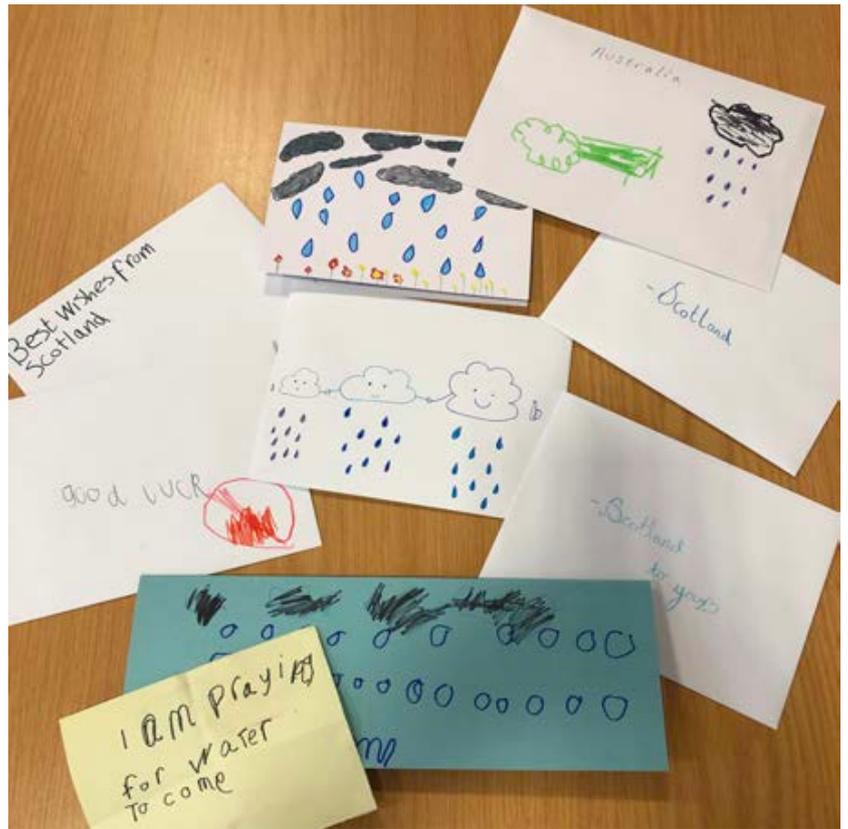
Start Up Stirling, 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling, FK7 7SP  
Tel: 01786 561027 Email: [mail@startupstirling.org.uk](mailto:mail@startupstirling.org.uk) Web: [www.startupstirling.org.uk](http://www.startupstirling.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No: SC 035477

*An Initiative of Churches in the Stirling Area*

## Sunday Club

We are looking forward to another term in the Sunday Club and have a number of different activities planned for the weeks ahead.

So far this term the children created cards and sent messages of support and prayers to congregations in Australia who have been affected by the devastating bush fires, they also considered the life and mission of John the Baptist and have continued the theme of looking at God's wonderful world.



They discussed the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch, did writing with quill pens and made bird feeders. We will be continuing this theme in future weeks too when we discuss and then action the planting plan for our Sunday Club planters.

A number of our group returned to the Church on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February after Sunday Club to receive the Sacrament of Communion at a special Children's Communion Service.



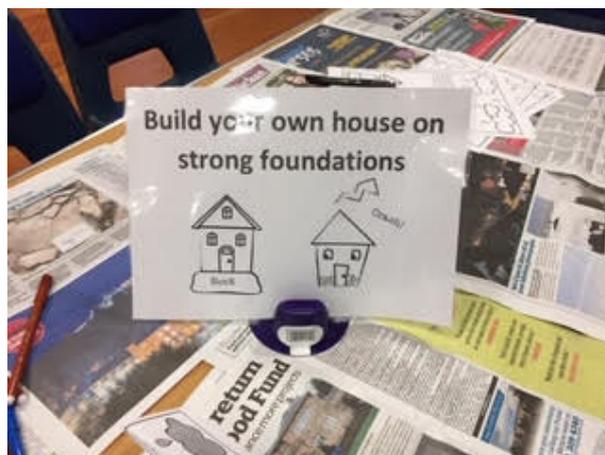
In the weeks coming we will consider some more Bible Superheroes and look at the stories of Miriam and Paul. We also have activities planned around Easter, our Church and the work of different Church charities.

It's going to be another busy term!

## Messy Church

**Theme- The wise man built his house upon the rock.**

Our January Messy Church was held in St Ninians Old Parish Church Halls on the 26<sup>th</sup> where we welcomed 30 children and 35 adults. There was a great buzz to the day and there is no doubt that having a Facebook presence plus getting the feeder schools to put it on their parent mail is proving successful.



We had our usual warm welcome, messy craft activities, celebration and songs based on the theme and a sit down meal together. We are very fortunate to have so many folk willing to donate food and money, help out on the day and generally ensure that people experience Church -in a different form.



Some thoughts going forward:-

How can we move Messy Church on, so that we can keep in touch with our families between sessions.?

How can we develop deeper discipleship requiring the relationship investment which asks the team to go beyond the all too familiar 'running a good event mindset'.

As ever -lots to think about!

Lyndsay Boyack



## A Trysting Place, The Church

In July 1972, two thousand people gathered together in York Minster. The event being celebrated was its 500th anniversary. The great crowd was also celebrating that the colossal majestic building had been saved from total collapse.

It is a marvel that it was ever built at all, for it took 250 years to complete and is probably the largest church building in the world next to St Peter's in Rome.

A second marvel is that two million pounds were raised to keep the Minster safe and beautiful. The work had been going on for many years and few could remember it without the scaffolding which had by then gone. The Minster had been reborn thanks to the generosity from varied sources.

The construction of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem took a mere seven years. What happened at York Minster both in its original erection and in its renovation far outshines Solomon's efforts. But what was it all for? The original construction and then the restoration. It was undoubtedly a work for God, to provide "A Trysting Place," - a meeting place of The Spirit. It was built and restored as an act of prayer and devotion by Yorkshire men and women. But is it right to try and coop up the omnipresent God in a gothic enclosure, however vast and magnificent? Also, but on a smaller scale, every city, town and village in the UK has at least one church, always conspicuous by their turrets or spires.

God, according to Wordsworth, is to be found in 'the light of the setting suns and the round ocean and the living air; in the blue sky and in the mind of man.' Indeed, it is often claimed it is easier to find God outside the Church than inside.

However there is a necessity for a place and time for worship of our God. In our personal relationships with each other, we require special times of coming together, whether it be parties, celebrations or deep discussions in order to strengthen these relationships.

Our personal relationship with God is no different. Praising God is very important. And where better to do this than in a church, by the singing of hymns? Soon we will be singing the great Easter hymns of the Resurrection, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today", and "To Thine be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son" for example. However in our hymns of praise at Easter we mustn't go directly to the Resurrection and forget the Cross.

Although not so strident as the Resurrection hymns, and strictly speaking not hymns, two wonderful and poignant songs of the Cross are, "The Old Rugged Cross", and "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?".

Of course beautiful and well known songs are sung throughout the year in churches up and down the land. We of course have the great Christmas carols and other wonderful

hymns which are not connected with either of the great Christian festivals. We owe a lot to the great hymn writers, truly they were blessed by our Father in Heaven.

We all have our favourites. "Love Divine All Love Excelling", "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory Of The Coming Of The Lord", "Still the Night", "The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended", "Abide With Me Fast Falls The Eventide", "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" "Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go" and many more .

Behind some of these well known hymns there is an interesting , sometimes very moving, story of what inspired the writer. We are the beneficiaries. (Some of these stories behind the hymns are well worth telling, perhaps in a future article).

On occasions the hymns are not so well known, perhaps new hymns from CH 4. Nevertheless we should attempt to sing them as they are often there for a reason, perhaps to back up the theme of the Minister's sermon. We should sing them with full gusto as well.

It really does our spirit the world of good to join in the singing of all the hymns. After all we're praising God, Our Father in Heaven, and opens up a deeper union with him. Although not everyone does all the time, perhaps having a wee break for whatever reason. But be aware if you falter, the Minister might just announce, "Stop the music Tony, stop the music. you there, why aren't you singing?" And his finger might point to you!! So when we come to Church on a Sunday, what are we doing there. Why aren't we elsewhere, at the Thistle Centre perhaps, relaxing at home with a good book or getting ready to visit friends or relatives or perhaps getting on with the housework?

Could it be we are there in Church, in that Holy Place, because in some way or other God has spoken to us, perhaps not told us to come but in some subtle way guided us there. There is a need for worshipping with others in a church building. Jesus did not command his followers to continue their devotion to him in isolation, far from it, he bade them to keep assembling together. The importance of meeting together in worship is underlined in the Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 10, verses 24 and 25:- "We ought to see how each of us may best arouse others to love and active goodness, not staying away from our meetings , as some do, but rather encouraging one another".

The very sight of others within a church service can strengthen our own faith.

There is a need for worshipping with others, and the historical rituals of this Church, St Ninians Old Parish, remind us of the great procession of people who for almost the last 270 years have worshipped here and who are still worshipping with us in the Church, unseen but triumphant!!

Arthur Walls

## Student Placement

Dear all,

I am writing this at the beginning of February and unfortunately, my time here at St Ninians Old is drawing to close as my placement finishes mid March. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here – you have all been so friendly and welcoming and some of you have even said nice things about my attempts at preaching! You have a wonderful minister in Gary and not only has he been a pleasure to work with - he has taught me a huge amount!

This was the first of three placements that candidates for ministry need to do – two 25 week part-time winter placements and a 10 week full-time summer placement. Moira and I are due to get married in June after our exams and I will then start my full-time summer placement, possibly in Catterick, training with a military chaplain. I will then be assigned another church for another 25 week part time placement in Edinburgh. In May 2021, I will start the final piece of training – a 15 months full-time Probation placement.

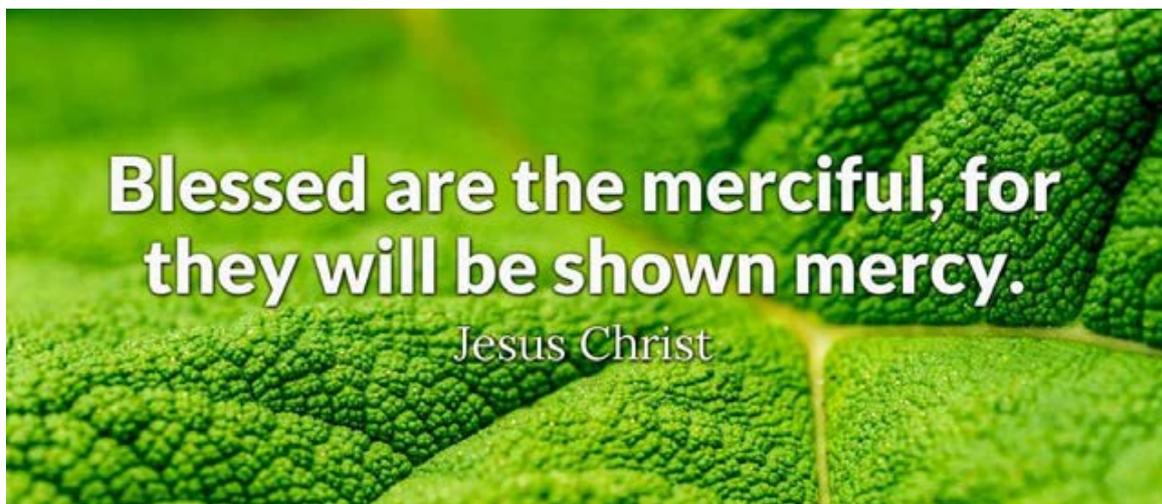
After successful completion of this stage I will be free to look for my own charge and I am looking forward to finding out where God might lead Moira and myself and how our ministry will develop.

Thank you once again – you have made what is a daunting and nerve-racking task an almost enjoyable one – please note the almost! I will be forever grateful to Gary and yourselves for all that you have done in my time here and you will continue to be in my prayers.

Yours aye

*Kerr*

Kerr Wintersgill



## Iconic Places of Worship around the World

Having been privileged to be able to travel around the world and have visited all of the continents apart from Antarctica, I thought it would be interesting to share some of the wonderful places of worship I have visited.

Space does not permit in one issue to write about them all.

The first place of worship I would like to mention is the **Washington National Cathedral** in Washington DC in the United States of America. The imposing building stands at Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues in the northwest quadrant of the city. It is a cathedral of the Episcopal Church and is the second largest church building in the United States. The foundation stone was laid on the 29<sup>th</sup>



September 1907 in the presence of the then President, Theodore Roosevelt and some eighty three years later the final finial was placed in the presence of President George H.W. Bush.

Planners hoped that it would have a similar role to Westminster Abbey in a National Role. State Funerals for four American Presidents have been held in The Cathedral; Dwight D Eisenhower, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and in November 2018 George H.W. Bush.

It was also the setting for the final Sunday sermon on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1968 when the Reverend Martin Luther King delivered the sermon from the “Canterbury Pulpit”, just a few days before he was assassinated.

Music plays a big part in the Cathedral. The great organ was installed in 1938 and has been enhanced over the years. The present instrument consists of 189 ranks and 10,647 pipes. The cathedral can boast two choirs, the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, founded in 1909 and the Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls founded in 1997. The two choirs currently share service duties and occasionally collaborate.

Three services are held each weekday including the daily Eucharist. Sunday through Thursday the cathedral choirs sing Evensong. On Sundays three services of the Eucharist are held along with Choral Evensong.



The next place of worship I would like to share is the **Catedral D Sevilla** (above) in Spain. The Cathedral is the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world. The history of the Cathedral dates back to 1184 when it was originally a mosque and was subsequently declared a cathedral in 1248 by Ferdinand 111 after the Reconquest of Spain. Work began on the present building in 1434 and has continued over the centuries until 1928.

The total area of the building is 23,500 square metres. The Gothic section alone has a length of 126 metres a width of 83 metres and the height from the centre of the transept is 37 metres. The Cathedral boasts 80 chapels including the Capilla Real.

It is the resting place of Christopher Columbus.

The Giralda is the bell tower of the Cathedral. Originally built as the minaret for the Grand Mosque and inspired by the Koutoubia Mosque Minaret in Marrakesh. It stands some 96 metres tall from the ground to the weather vane.

To complete this article, we cross the Mediterranean to Morocco to the red city of Marrakesh.



The **Koutoubia Mosque** is Marrakesh's most important mosque and was one of the largest places of worship for followers of Islam when it was completed in 1158. Its name means Mosque of the Booksellers, because of the numerous bookstands that surrounded the Mosque when it was first constructed. Non-Muslims may not enter the Koutoubia Mosque nor can they enter any other mosque in Marrakesh.

The highlights of the Mosque are the minaret that stands 69 metres high and the colour of the temple, made of red stone, which is typical of the region. It is the highest building in Marrakesh.

The mosque is ornamented with curved windows, a band of ceramic inlay, pointed fortifications and decorative arches. It also has a large plaza with gardens. The minaret's gleaming brass spire keeps its shine all year thanks to an old Moroccan technique. Each year the balls are filled with mineral-rich salt from the High Atlas Mountains which keeps the spire from oxidising.

Five times a day, one voice rises above the Djemma din as the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer.

Ken Christie

## **United Mission to Nepal**

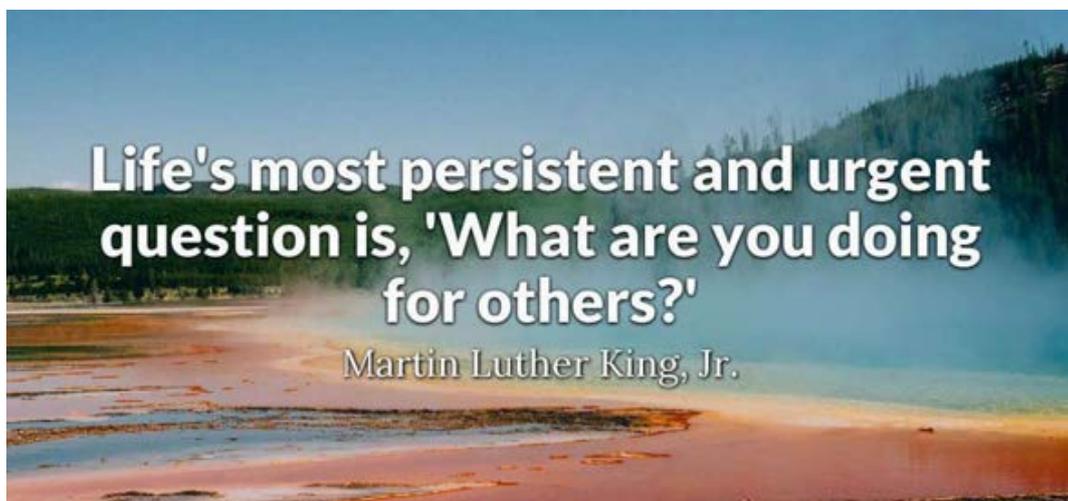
After the earthquake in Nepal, Church of Scotland was one of twelve agencies that founded United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in 1954. Today UMN "strives to address root causes of poverty as it serves the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ." UMN's response to the 2015 earthquake will end in 2020 after a massive effort to rebuild and rehabilitate communities and infrastructure in north Dhading.

Church of Scotland Let Us Build A House campaign raised more than £330,000 for this work.

## **Mission Partner Prayer Focus**

Keith and Ida Waddell are our Mission Partners with the United Church of Zambia (UCZ). Keith, a teacher, is Education Secretary and Ida, a nurse, is Health Secretary. They have asked that we join them in praying for the following:

- Give thanks to God for having brought the United Church of Zambia and us this far.
- Please pray for the UCZ as it shares the holistic gospel, makes disciples and gives faithful testimony through a service-centred ministry in social action, focusing on personal and social holiness.
- Pray for the church to be salt and light nationally and regionally, speaking prophetically into areas of political, economic, social, moral and environmental injustice as issues integral to our faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for a transforming of mind, heart and spirit for the individual believer, the UCZ and Zambia as a whole.
- Pray for wisdom, sensitivity, discernment and safety as we both carry out our respective roles in Lusaka and nationwide in the UCZ's mission schools, hospitals and clinics.



Of the situation they find themselves in,  
Their hopes shattered by their experience of life –  
Those who are anxious, fearful, disillusioned, depressed.  
Or having lost their homes, their employment,  
Their livelihoods, their loved ones.  
Those afflicted by disease, disability, disaster,  
Or exploited, oppressed,  
Deprived of their basic human dignity.  
God of the unexpected  
Hear our prayer.

May the surprise of Easter burst afresh  
Into their and our own lives,  
Revealing new possibilities to life  
And new meaning to each day and every moment,  
Bringing new strength and opportunities,  
Offering new hope for the future  
And renewed purpose in the present.  
May this day we celebrate teach us to expect the unexpected  
God of the unexpected  
Hear this our prayer  
In the name of the risen and victorious Christ.

Amen

Lorna Waddell



Washington Cathedral

Ken Christie

## **The Stirling Kirks Together**

**All- Age Friendship Lunches will continue to be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month**

**2020**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**From 12noon-1.30pm**

**Venue: Park Parish Church, Park Terrace, Stirling  
(New name – same place)**



**Conversation**

**Soup & Rolls, Tea, Coffee and Home Baking**

**All welcome - No need to book**

**(Optional £2.50 donation)**

**For further information contact Johan Stirling on 01786 461571**



**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
Scotland

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t: 01786 449 266 e: [contactus@leprosymission.scot](mailto:contactus@leprosymission.scot)  
[www.leprosymission.scot](http://www.leprosymission.scot)

St Ninians Old Parish Church  
c/o Mrs M E P Sibbald  
6 Brentham Crescent  
STIRLING  
FK8 2AZ



10/01/2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you for collecting and donating your used stamps. Your support means that leprosy is being spotted earlier and treated faster so that, we pray, nobody will have to go through Nagammal's dreadful experience.

Nagammal was living alone, abandoned in a goat shed. Her severely deformed hands and feet meant she struggled to take care of herself and couldn't walk. She had to crawl in the dirt every day.

But now Nagammal's leprosy is cured.

Reconstructive surgery on her forearm has given her the ability to hold a spoon and cook independently.

She has received a wheelchair so she can move around. This independence has brought her increased dignity... no more crawling on the ground.

She will need a lot more help to overcome the difficulties she has faced because of leprosy. Thanks to you she will get the help she needs to stop leprosy from affecting her so severely.

For the people whose leprosy is spotted early and treated fast today, we will be able to stop it before these issues begin, and we will stop it from spreading to others around them.

Together we will eradicate leprosy, one person at a time. One person like Nagammal.

Thank you,

Mhairi Dawson  
Head of Supporter Care

*P.S We would love to keep in touch and share the impact your support is having on the lives of people affect by leprosy. I have enclosed some materials which we have available. If you would like to receive regular copies of our newsletter and prayer diary for distribution, or find out about other ways you can help, please do get in touch and we'll be happy to help.*



The Leprosy Mission Scotland is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No. SC356041.

**MAKING LEPROSY A THING OF THE PAST**



## Photo Corner



The burn at Tinker's Loan

Gary J McIntyre



Stephen Reid



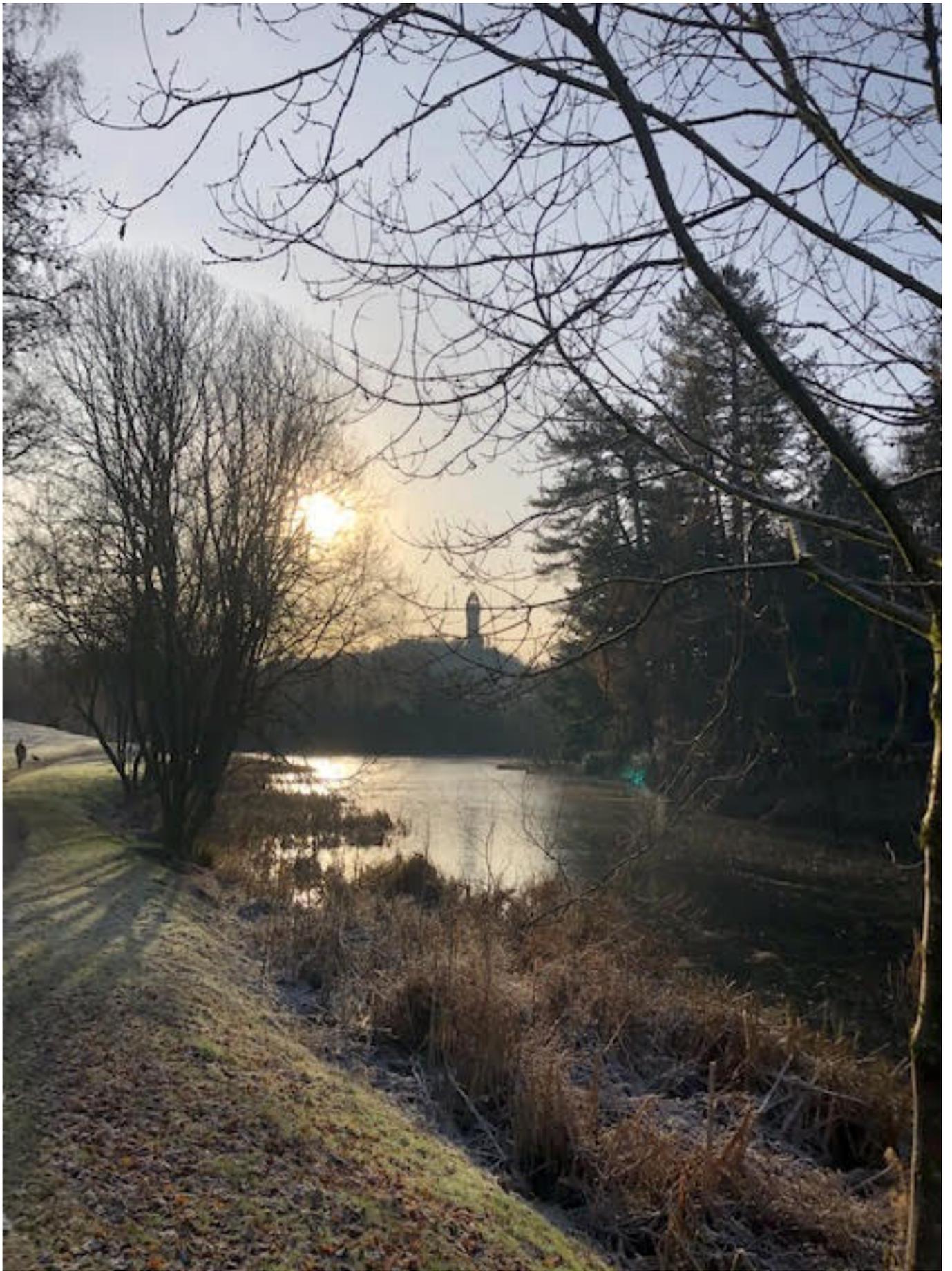
Skye in February- Elgol overlooking the Cuillin

Marion Jackson



Young Costa Rican dancer wearing the traditional brightly coloured gola (skirt)

Peter Kale



Stirling University Lake

Arthur Walls



Exiting the Panama Canal into the Caribbean with the Atlantic Bridge in front

Peter Kale



Pacific sunset

Peter Kale

## Office Bearers Contact Numbers & Email Addresses

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<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Elaine Mackay	01786 475596
<b>Tuesday Group</b>	Mrs Miranda Miller	01786 465836
<b>Youth Committee Convener</b>	Mrs Avril Robertson	01786 474634